

Rob Walker Films Presents

The Pneumatic Tube



No. 12

"Potatoes and Molasses"

"Busier than a one-armed paper-hanger with the crabs"

Apartment complexes are microcosms of our society. They really only work as long as people observe social norms like not leaving cigarette butts next to the jacuzzi, eating in the pool or dumping an entire couch in the communal dumpster a day after the trash has been picked up...for example. Every time I hear someone honking off about why we have so many laws in this country, I think of this kind of stuff. Because someone came to a dinner party and decided to stir the punch with his knob and when he was confronted, he responded with "I didn't know I couldn't do that." Then the host of the party has to look at everyone and say, "I didn't think we needed a rule for this but..."

While our time in our new home has been pleasant, some of the cracks are now starting to show and it's causing me to think about how a society works. Do I complain to the management about the behavior of others, forcing them to add more rules to their already bursting lease agreement? Or do I confront the people directly and risk alienating myself from my neighbors? What if, after they're confronted, these neighbors decide to ignore my suggestions for common courtesy and continue with their shitty behavior? Do I double down then, until we are nose to nose in a frustrating detente?

All of these are hypotheticals of course, well except for the food in the pool, the cigarettes by the jacuzzi, and the couch in the dumpster, all of that was real. But these questions remain as I lay awake at night thinking about what it means to be living closely amongst people in a society that seems to more and more prize personal desires over communal courtesy. Mostly I want to be able to take my son to the pool without worry about the food floating in it. And the cigarette butts nearby.

That's enough of that. Let's kick the tires and light the fires!

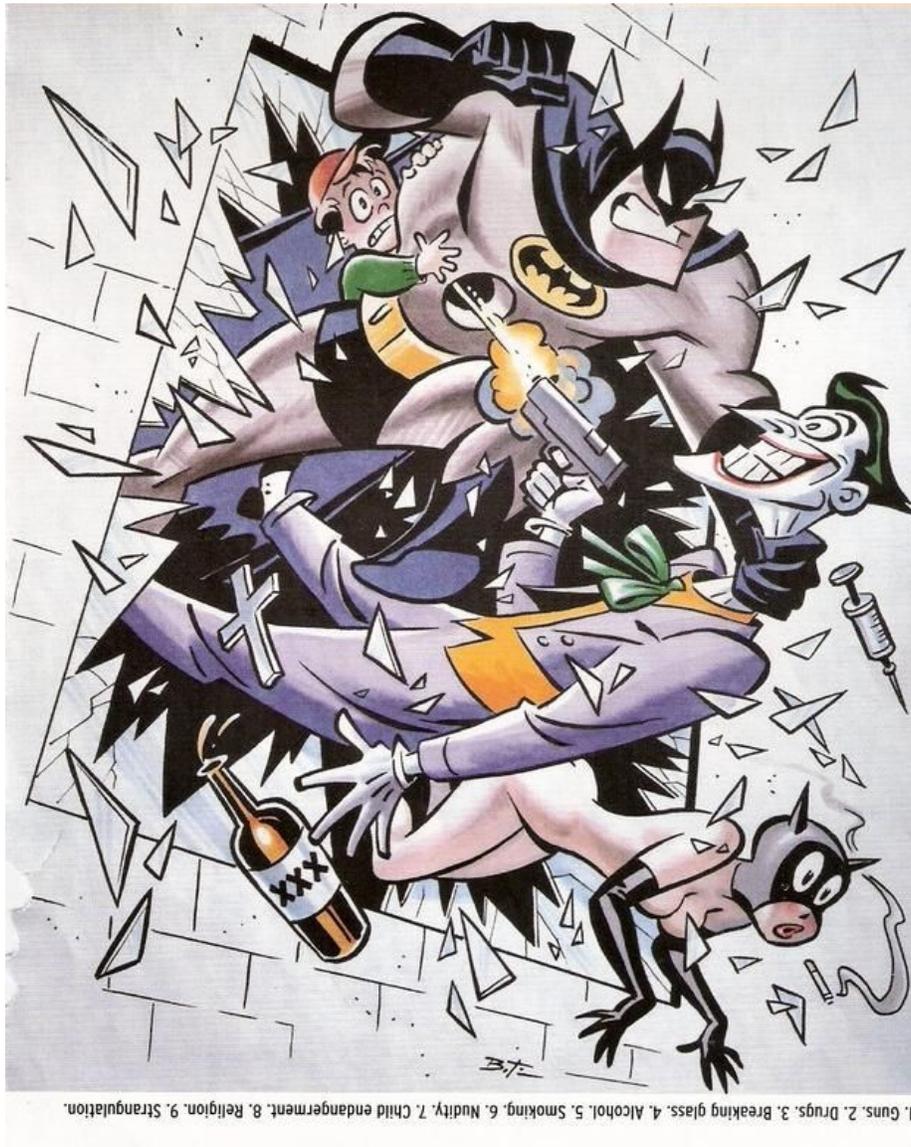
Harlan Ellison's Watching



Writer, essayist, and angry American Harlan Ellison died on June 27th and the world is poorer for his passing. Ellison was often cited as a science fiction writer, a title which he despised, primarily because his work dealt in matters fantastic. He is best known for his stories *Repent, Harlequin! Said the Ticktockman*, *I Have No mouth and I must Scream*, *The Beast That Shouted Love at the Heart of the World*, and *A Boy and His Dog* among many many others. He was also notable for writing Star Trek's *City on the Edge of Forever* and working on *The Outer Limits*. However, if you're new to Ellison, I recommend going to YouTube and watching his series of commentaries recorded in the late 80s/early 90s for the SciFi Channel. They are combative, insightful, funny and sincere. I'm sure Harlan would tell you that watching these would make you

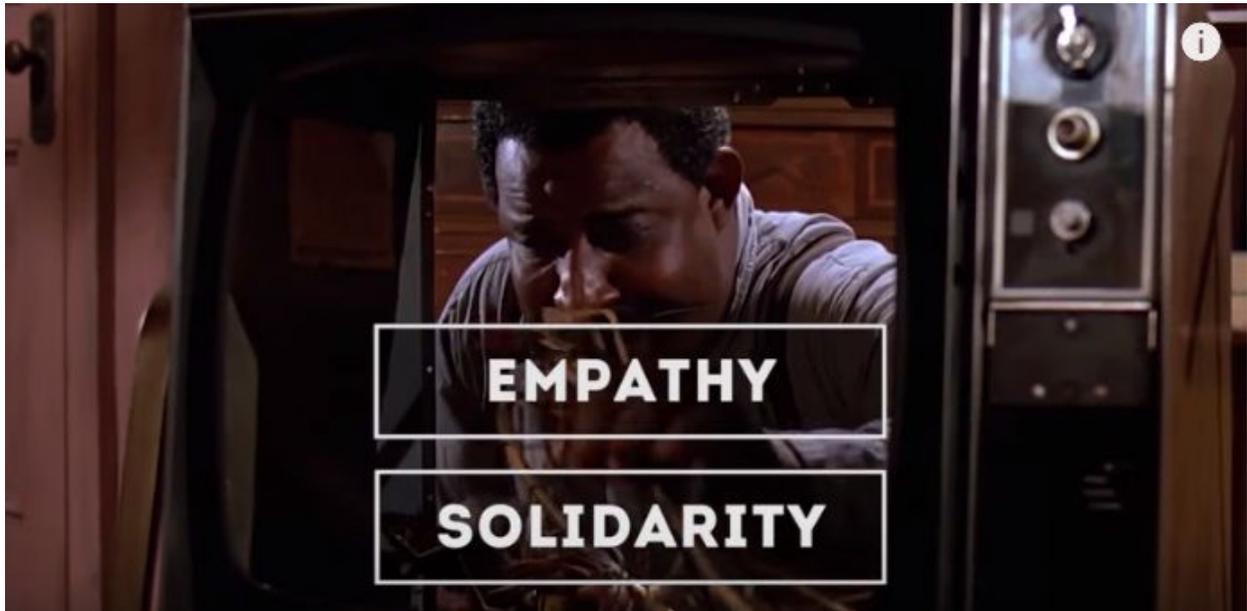
a better person and I would be hard-pressed to disagree. [THIS ONE](#) is a particular favorite of mine. Watch them [HERE](#). And get his books from your local library or [HOOPLA digital loan service](#).

This Picture Drawn by Bruce Timm



In the 1990s when Batman The Animated Series was being developed, the FOX Kids Network sent out a decree telling the writers and artists of the show what they could not include in a BtAS episode. In humorous response, show creator Bruce Timm drew the piece of art.

1980s Movies that Shaped Our Humanity



Pop Culture Detective is one of a handful of YouTube critics that I enjoy. The videos are long-form essays on aspects of pop-culture and cinema that take deep dives into how these works are inspired by and, in return, inspire our world. This episode is of particular interest to me. Being a small child in the 1980s, I grew up with many of these films. They are sappy and saccharin but sincere in their delivery. Since we currently live in a world where empathy seems to be in short supply, we might do well to return to an artistic time that inspires our youth to have empathy, show solidarity and feel inspired by their entertainment to make the world a better place. Watch the episode [HERE](#).

The art of Gabriel Pacheco





Pacheco is a modern Mexican artist whose work has a dreamlike storybook quality. You can see more of his work [HERE](#).

REJECTED JOKES!

Explanation: I've been submitting humor pieces to publications steadily for over a year now, which means that I'm sitting on a ton of material that never made it to print. I continue to polish and submit these rejected pieces, but as it stands they do not have a home. Below is one of my (many) rejected pieces. Enjoy and remember that one person's trash is another person's treasure.

Epitaphs from a Victorian Cemetery

Here lies Edmund James- Beloved Husband, Devoted Father, Horse Strangler

Rest in Peace: Sir Archibald Dildo-Lifelong Bachelor, Man of Science, Inventor

On Feathered Wings: Virginia "Ginny" Hayes - "There's no problem in this world that cannot be solved by throwing it into the cold and unforgiving sea."

Here Lies Admiral Cornelius Boone: Poet and Teacher. Perished due to complications from "Mermaid's Malady"

Lyeth in Rest: Genevieve Alphonse-Percy: Conservationist, Animal Lover, Animal Wife, Animal Victim.

Well, that's it for now. I hope you guys enjoyed this issue of the *The Pneumatic Tube* or at least found parts of it useful. If you have any questions or recommendations for me, you can reach me at [robwalkerfilms\[at\]gmail\[DOT\]com](mailto:robwalkerfilms[at]gmail[DOT]com) Be sure to tell your friends about it and if you want to reach me elsewhere, you can find me at these spaces below.

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Take care,

-Rob

"The Forbidden Zone was a paradise... 'til your breed made a desert of it ages ago." - Jeff Sessions

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